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## Penticton's emergency department implements electronic charting

PENTICTON – Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH) is the latest Interior Health (IH) site to launch a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) in its Emergency Department (ED).

The new EMR system launched today and allows ED physicians and nurses to electronically document all aspects of the care they provide to patients including nurse assessments, vital signs, medication administered and emergency physician reports.

“It is great to see Interior Health developing a new EMR system in Penticton’s emergency department to help improve patient care,” said Health Minister Adrian Dix. “We know that using technology can support health-care providers as they work in a team to provide more coordinated care to patients.”

EMR implementation team members have been busy training physicians and nurses to use the new system, as well as upgrading devices used by clinicians, including mobile workstations on wheels.

“Though it represents a major change in the care process, electronic charting will improve the availability of patient information in the ED and provide immediate access for primary care providers and other members of the health-care team to records of emergency visit,” said IH Board Chair Doug Cochrane. “Health professionals, and ultimately patients, will benefit from having accurate, current information that is easily shared with all authorized members of the care team, and which follows the patient into the community after they leave the hospital.”

The EMR system will be implemented in phases and additional staff, physicians and EMR project team members will be on-site to provide support during the transition period.

“I am excited to be a part of this landmark change,” said Department Head of PRH ED Dr. Stephan Samoyloff. “The electronic record will vastly improve our ability to communicate our care plans, which will improve patient care here and in the community outpatient setting.”

There may be times during the implementation that short delays will occur as employees become accustomed to using the new system. These will be monitored and adjustments will be made to ensure that quality patient care remains a priority at all times.

IH would like to thank the public for its patience as we transition to the new system, which will ultimately provide improved patient-centred care for residents in the Penticton region.

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